

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 INT-05 /130 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJ: UNCTAD - SECOND MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE
INTEGRATED PROGRAM

1. THE SECOND MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES (AHC) COMPLETED ITS
WORK IN ONE DAY OF MEETINGS MARCH 2 WITH APPROVAL OF REPORT IN
BRIEF MEETING ON MARCH 3. MEETING FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF THIRD
PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE CF AND WAS SIMILARLY LOW-KEY AND
NONCONTENTIOUS. DELEGATIONS REFRAINED FROM
ATTEMPTING TO TURN AHC INTO FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUES AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO SUBSTANCE OR OUTCOME
OF NEGOTIATING SESSION ON CF.

2. GROUP B STATEMENT AT OPENING PLENARY SESSION DIRECTED
ATTENTION TO CONCERN AT END OF 1976 WITH QUOTE TIME LOST
IN CIRCULAR DISCUSSIONS OF A POLITICAL OR RHETORICAL
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NATURE UNQUOTE BUT INDICATED THAT MORE SUBSTANTIVE
NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS THUS FAR IN 1977 (READ RUBBER AND
COPPER) REVEALS INCREASING APPRECIATION OF DELEGATIONS
FOR COMPLEXITY OF WORK UNDER THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM (IP).

3. GROUP OF 77 WAS UNPREPARED FOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT
ON SECRETARIAT REPORT ON PROGRESS (TD/B/IPC/AC/7) TO DATE

CLAIMING LACK OF TIME FOR PREPARATION. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COORDINATED EFFORT BETWEEN UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND SEVERAL GENEVA BASED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LDCS, THE PROBLEMS THE SECRETARIAT CLAIMS TO BE HAVING IN MANAGING A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITHIN ITS BUDGET AND IN PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING DOCUMENTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO ATTEMPTS BY A QUOTE FEW INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES UNQUOTE TO BOG THE IP DOWN THROUGH OVERLY COMPLEX TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. EGYPT AND BANGLADESH, FOR EXAMPLE, REPEATED LDC VIEWS THAT TOO MUCH TIME WAS BEING CONSUMED BY ATTEMPTS TO UNDO THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN RESOLUTION 93(IV) AND THAT FAILURE TO PROGRESS ON IP WAS DUE TO LACK OF POLITICAL WILL AND RIGHT SENSE OF DIRECTION IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENTS. IRAN, NIGERIA, ALGERIA AND MEXICO SUPPORTED THIS VIEW WITH SIMILAR CALLS FOR AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC AND MORE LIMITED OBJECTIVES FOR EACH COMMODITY MEETING. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT (CHIDZERO) ALSO STATED THAT IF DECEMBER 1978 TARGET IS TO BE MET, A BETTER BALANCE WILL HAVE TO BE DRAWN BETWEEN TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE MEASURES, A SENTIMENT ECHOED BY THE CHAIRMAN (HUSLID OF NORWAY) WHO WARNED AGAINST GETTING MIRED IN A SWAMP OF DETAILS AND, THUS, LOSING SIGHT OF THE NEED TO SEARCH FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS BY ALL GROUPS. IN ADDITION, THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED IN THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE THAT HENCEFORTH THE REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS NOT BE LIMITED MERELY TO REPORTING DECISIONS REACHED, BUT ALSO INCLUDE SUMMARIES OF REMARKS MADE, THUS ASSURING THE DISCONTENT OF THE G-77 WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE RECORD.

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4. PRIOR TO MOVING ON TO APPROVE THE CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE OF IPC MEETINGS, THE SECRETARIAT (BERTHOUD OF CONFERENCE SERVICES) ENGAGED IN A LONG, RAMBLING DISSERTATION ON THE PROBLEMS OF ISSUING DOCUMENTATION AND OF PROVIDING ARABIC TRANSLATIONS, THE UPSHOT OF WHICH WAS A PLEA FOR MORE FUNDS FOR UNCTAD SO AS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES WITHOUT HAVING TO RELY COMPLETELY ON THE GENEVA OFFICES OF THE UN.

5. AHC APPROVED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF 1977 WITH SOME REVISIONS. (SEE TD/B/IPC/AC/L.1/REV.1 BEING TRANSMITTED VIA SEPTTEL). UNCTAD DOCUMENTATION ALSO NOTED UPCOMING CONFERENCES ON OTHER COMMODITIES, GRAINS AND OLIVE OIL.

6. SECRETARIAT SET ASIDE THREE WEEKS (IN OCTOBER) IN ITS GENERAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR FOR RENEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, SECRETARIAT ADVISED THAT INCLUSION OF THIS

CONFERENCE TIME IN CALENDAR WAS IN RESPONSE TO INFORMAL, RATHER THAN FORMAL, REQUEST FROM INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL AND FOR CONTINGENCY PURPOSES ONLY. INCLUSION OF IGA RENEGOTIATION ON UNCTAD'S GENERAL CALENDAR DOES NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT ANY EFFORT TO INJECT GRAINS INTO INTEGRATED PROGRAM.

7. INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL AGREEMENT, ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES, EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1978. SECRETARIAT AT REQUEST OF INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL HAS SET PREPARATORY NEGOTIATING MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 19-30, 1977, FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, MARCH 28-APRIL 31, 1978.

8. MEETING TO APPROVE RAPPORTEUR'S DRAFT REPORT OF SESSION RAN SMOOTHLY UNTIL NEAR FINAL PARAGRAPH WHEN MEXICAN REP (ARMENDARIZ) ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEMBLANCE OF G-77 UNITY BY INSERTING PARAGRAPH SUMMARIZING COMMON THEMES HE SAW RUNNING THROUGH STATEMENTS MADE BY THE SIX LDCS WHO SPOKE, COLOMBIAN REP IMMEDIATELY REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL AND WITH NO SUPPORT FROM EVEN ONE OTHER G-77 MEMBER, MEXICAN REP SUCCEEDED ONLY IN SHOWING UP DISUNITY IN G-77.

9. THIRD SESSION OF AHC SCHEDULED JULY 11-15 LIKELY TO BE INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED AS ALL GROUPS CALLED FOR A MORE THOROUGH REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, AND AHC WILL HAVE TO PREPARE REPORT TO THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATE AUGUST.CATTO

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